



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Southwest MO Storms Event May 11, 2008, 10 a.m.

SUMMARY

Severe storms with heavy rain and high winds, along with several reported tornadoes, swept through southwest Missouri Saturday evening – Sunday Morning. These severe storms are part of a large cluster of fast-moving storms, which have also affected states such as Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee. At least **13** people have been killed in southwest Missouri due to tornadoes. The hardest hit areas appear to be in Barry, Jasper and Newton Counties in region "D". The National Weather Service reports a tornado apparently did touch down in Newton County near Racine. Survey teams will be in that area early Sunday to assess that further. Shelters have been established in Diamond, Neosho and Purdy.

County Reports:

Barry County – Officials report one person killed with some minor injuries to other persons. One shelter was opened at the Purdy Community Center – **no one in the overnight and they closed it. Damage assessment is on going. Several dozens of homes have roof damage. Power outages are throughout the county. Most power will be back on this evening or in the morning.**

Jasper County – One person reported killed near Carthage. Also reports of downed trees and minor structural damage. **Eighteen persons sent to Newton County last night to assist in law-enforcement activities. Ten persons will be dispatched this morning. Three or four homes were damaged last night in the eastern portion of the county.**

Newton County – There have been 11 confirmed fatalities after a tornado apparently moved through the county. **Two Shelters have been set up at First Baptist Church in Diamond and Calvary Baptist Church in Neosho, but no one stayed in the shelter. 8,000 to 9,000 are without power; everything south of Joplin is without power. Support has been received from Missouri National Guard, Missouri State Water Patrol and Missouri State Highway Patrol. The Incident Support Team (IST) will be standing down this evening.**

State Agencies

The State Emergency Management Agency – SEMA has activated the State Emergency Operations Center to Level Two.

Missouri Information Analysis Center – MIAC continues to collect and disseminate information related to the storms and their effects.

Missouri National Guard – One Liaison Officer and 16 soldiers are assisting local law enforcement in southwest Missouri area.

Missouri State Highway Patrol – Troop “D” officers have responded to the areas hit by the storms and they are assisting local jurisdictions in matters such as traffic control and security. **30 officers have been assigned to this incident, from Troops A, G and I.**

Missouri State Water Patrol – MSWP had four officers respond to affected area and 20 more have been placed on stand-by in case more officers are needed. MSWP representative is at the State EOC. **21 Water Patrol officers are assisting local law enforcement officers. MSWP also reported Osage Bluff Marina was damaged/destroyed by high winds. No casualties reported.**

Department of Health & Senior Services – DHSS has requested Missouri Hospital Association check on potential patient surge issues at hospitals in areas affected by the storms and will monitor that situation.

Department of Natural Resources – No reports at this time. No haz mat incidents reported at this time.

Department of Mental Health – DMH ready to assist volunteer organizations and other state agencies with issues involving shelters for the public.

Division of Fire Safety – All resources were released in the overnight.

Department of Social Services – DSS ready to assist volunteer agencies in human-services related matters.

Department of Transportation – Route BB in Newton County is closed due to power wires across the road. Will be back in service by noon. Route C and Route VV in Barry County could not be confirmed as closed due to debris.

Non Government Organizations/Volunteer Organizations:

American Red Cross (ARC) has set up three shelters in the affected area and has sent supplies to two command posts. **American Red Cross is assisting with feeding operations.** Also has dispatched three Emergency Response Vehicles to Newton County.

Americorps has mobilized two teams, one is enroute to Southwest Missouri. Supervisor is in Neosho coordinating Americorps response.

Missouri Nova Team – Eight persons are assisting ARC in their operations.

Missouri Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) is monitoring the situation due to the number of reported fatalities and standing by to assist. **MFDA reported that they are handling the casualties without additional requests for assistance.**

Salvation Army (SA) is assisting ARC with shelter operations and will set up feeding operations in Newton County. **Feeding operations will continue on Sunday.**

United Way – 211 – No calls at this time and they are continuing to monitor the situation.

Weather

The National Weather Service Reports that the strong storms moved rapidly through southwest Missouri and those conditions should be dry there for the next few days. **A Wind Advisory was issued today for the entire State of Missouri, with winds of up to 30-40 miles per hour are possible for the next few hours. The severe storms have moved out of the State this morning.**

Point of Contact:

The State Emergency Management Agency will have staff on-site throughout the today and can be contacted at 573-526-9100. Appropriate representatives from State Agencies are to report to the State EOC, if they have not already.